

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 HEW-04 AID-05 IGA-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 L-03 EB-08 NEAE-00 VO-03 SCA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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DEPARTMENT PASS HEW, AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USEGJC, TBIO, TGEN, CVIS, OEXC

REF: (A) CAIRO 3701 (B) CAIRO 3705 (C) CAIRO 3838

1. SUMMARY. MINISTER OF HEALTH BADRAN AND UNDERSECRETARY GOMAA AND PROJ. HOPE EGYPT DIRECTOR BENNETT MET FEBRUARY 25 (REF B). BENNETT DETAILED CHRONOLOGY OF ALL GOPE ACTIONS RE HEW-FUNDED VISITING HEALTH PROFESSIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM AND FIR IN-COUNTRY VOLUNTARY PROGRAM CONSULTANTS. HOPE PROGRAM CONSTRAINTS INCLUDING VISA SITUATION FOR EGYPTIAN PHYSICIANS WERE EXPLAINED. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. BENNETT EXPLAINED LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY ECFMG/NEW HEALTH LEGISLATION, NOTING CURRENT RELUCTANCE OF SOME U.S. INSTITUTIONS TO COMPLETE DSP-66'S AND FACT THAT IN SOME CASES, EVEN WHERE DSP-66 COMPLETED BY U.S. HOST, HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO HOLD UP PROCESSING BY PROJECT HOPE (U.S.) PRESUMABLY WHILE SITUATION BEING CLARIFIED. HE ALSO POINTED OUT INSTANCES AND EFFECTS OF GOE LATE ACTIONS. AT CONCLUSION BADRAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD PROBLEMS BUT WANTED BETTER PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION. HE SAID HE WANTED DRS. RAMZY, HAMDY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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METWALLI AND GIBRAIL, WHOSE PROCESSING WAS SUSPENDED PER INSTRUCTIONS FROM HOPE (U.S.), TO LEAVE ASAP. AFTERWARDS, MOH MIGHT DISCUSS REORIENTING HOPE FELLOWSHIPS TO FOCUS ON HEALTH PROFESSIONALS OTHER THAN PHYSICIANS UNTIL ECFMG/NEW LEGISLATION AND RELATED VISA CIRCUMSTANCES CLARIFY.

3. BARDRAN SEES PROCESSING OF THESE PHYSICIANS AND OTHERS

UNDER THIS PROGRAM AS A USG OBLIGATION THROUGH OPERATION OF U.S.-EGYPT HEALTH AGREEMENT. FYI: USAID HAS RECEIVED AND, IN VIEW OF INABILITY OF HOPE TO PROCEED, IS PROCESSING MOH REQUEST TO SEND REF PHYSICIANS UNDER PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAM. MOH HAS SENT WRITTEN CERTIFICATION THAT PHYSICIANS WILL BE OBSERVERS ONLY. WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT MOH TO SEND MORE REQUESTS TO USAID. AS NOTED REF B, WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE MOH SIMPLY REROUTE ALL FUTURE PHYSICIAN TRAINING NORMALLY PROCESSED THROUGH HOPE TO PARTICIPANT TRAINING. END FYI.

4. WE URGE THAT EFFORTS BE MADE BY ALL INTERESTED U.S. PARTIES TO RESOLVE SITUATION THERE AND ALLOW HOPE (EGYPT) TO RESUME PROCESSING OF NOMINEES. BENNETT INFORMED THAT USAID IS ACTING ON CURRENT MOH REQUEST.

5. EMBASSY HAS INFORMALLY HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING TDY HEW OFFICERS, THAT NEW LEGISLATION IS OR WILL BE SUSPENDED, AT LEAST IN PART, AND/OR NEW PROCEDURES DEVELOPED ALLOWING FOR SUBSTITUTE FOR ECFMG. CONFIRMATION AND/OR CLARIFICATION REQUESTED.

6. COMMENT. WE WISH TO CALL ATTENTION TO MINISTER BADRAN'S VIEW THAT EXISTENCE OF HEALTH AGREEMENT PLACES OBLIGATION ON USG TO SOLVE, AT LEAST IN CONTEXT OF THAT AGREEMENT, VISA PROBLEMS FOR EGYPTIAN PHYSICIANS NOMINATED BY GOE OR INVITED BY U.S. INSTITUTIONS WITH CONCURRENCE OF GOE. BADRAN HAS SOME PERSONAL STAKE IN THESE PROCESSING PROBLEMS (REF A). HE TOLD BENNETT THAT HE HAS OFFER OF SIXTY USSR FELLOWSHIPS FOR PHYSICIANS BUT WAS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THEM SINCE HE PRELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FERRED TO WORK WITH U.S. ALTHOUGH TIMING OF HIS STATEMENT PROBABLY INTENDED TO HELP FORCE ACTION, WE DO NOT DOUBT HIS PREFERENCE. IF PROBLEMS WITH HEW/HOPE FELLOWSHIPS CANNOT BE RESOLVED, HE MAY WELL FEEL NEED TO LOWER THE LEVEL OF HIS ADVOCACY OF THE BENEFITS OF U.S. COOPERATION.
MATTHEWS

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